LIVINGSTONE-PORCUPINE HILLS

SUB-REGIONAL

INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN

ANNUAL REPORT
1987-1989

August 1989

Alberta

Southern Region
Regional Resource Management Committee

LIVINGSTONE-PORCUPINE HILLS

SUB-REGIONAL INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN

ANNUAL REPORT
1987/1989

Prepared by
Regional Resource Management Committee
Southern Region

August 1989

80-04722/

Publication Number: I/288
International Standard Book Number: 0-86499-636-5

COPIES OF THIS REPORT MAY BE OBTAINED FROM:

Regional Co-ordination Services
Bag 3014, Sun Centre Building
530 - 8 Street South
LETHBRIDGE
Alberta, T1J 2J8

Telephone: (403) 381-5430

COPIES OF THIS REPORT MAY BE VIEWED AT:

ENERGY/FORESTRY, LANDS & WILDLIFE LIBRARY
9th Floor, South Tower, Petroleum Plaza
9915 - 108 Street, EDMONTON

INFORMATION CENTRE
ENERGY/FORESTRY, LANDS & WILDLIFE
Main Floor, Bramelea Building
9920 - 108 Street, EDMONTON

INFORMATION CENTRE
ENERGY/FORESTRY, LANDS & WILDLIFE
Main Floor, Britannia Building
703 - 6th Avenue S.W., CALGARY

Fish and Wildlife Offices in:
CALGARY (#200 Sloan Square, 5920 - 1A Street S.W.)
PINCHER CREEK (Provincial Building, Main Street)
CARDSTON (Provincial Building, 576 Main Street)

Alberta Forest Service:
CALGARY (8860 Bearspaw Dam Road N.W.)
BLAIRMORE (11901 - 19 Ave.)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

1.0 INTRODUCTION 1

2.0 ACCESS 2

2.1 Access Management Plan 2

3.0 ECOLOGICAL RESERVES. 3

3.1 Mount Livingstone Natural Area 3
3.2 Upper Bob Creek Ecological Reserve 3
3.3 Beehive Natural Area 3

4.0 FISHERIES. 5

4.1 Stream and Lake Inventories. 5
4.2 Fisheries Surveys. 5

5.0 RANGE AND AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES 9

5.1 Range Management, Resource Management Areas (RMAs) A, B, C, E, F . 9
5.2 Stocking Levels, RMAs A, B, C, E, F. 9
5.3 Range Management, RMA D. 10
5.4 Range Improvement, RMA D 10
5.5 Agricultural Sale. 10

6.0 RECREATION 11

6.1 Facilities and Opportunities 11
6.2 Commercial Operations. 11

7.0 TIMBER 12

7.1 Forest Protection. 12
7.2 Reforestation. 12
7.3 Timber Harvesting. 13

8.0 WATER AND WATERSHED. 15

8.1 Watershed Management 15
8.2 Reclamation. 15
8.3 Water Impoundments 16
8.4 Stream Crossing Assessment 16

9.0 WILDLIFE 18

9.1 Elk Population Monitoring. 18
9.2 Moose Population Monitoring. 18
9.3 Mountain Goats 19
9.4 Elk and Bighorn Sheep Winter Range Assessment. 19

10.0 ONGOING ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES 21

10.1 Introduction 21
10.2 Alberta Energy 21
10.3 Alberta Forest Service 21
10.4 Alberta Fish & Wildlife. 22

10.4.1 Referrals. 22
10.4.2 Wildlife Occurrences 22

10.5 Alberta Public Lands 22

11.0 HOUSEKEEPING CHANGES/AMENDMENTS 23

11.1 Changing IRPs. 23
11.2 Requests for Changes 23

12.0 ACRONYMS/INITIALISMS. 27

APPENDIX A: Zoning Change - Critical Wildlife to Multiple Use. 28

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document provides an overview of the resource management and development activities that have occurred under the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) from August 4, 1987 to March 31 1989. Information in this report is current to that date only. Completion of this annual report fulfills one requirement of the approved implementation framework for integrated resource plans.

In the Southern Region, IRP annual reports cover fiscal year periods (April 1 to March 31). Because the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills IRP was approved in August, this first "annual report" covers a 20-month period. Future reports will be "annual", covering the previous fiscal year.

In describing plan implementation,the report deals alphabetically with the resource sectors identified in the IRP, summarizing for each the various activities of the involved government agencies. Only those resource sectors for which implementation activities have occurred are identified. In addition to addressing those activities that have taken place specifically as a result of the IRP, this report also contains a summary of the ongoing operational activities of the involved agencies in the IRP area.

2.0 ACCESS

2.1 Access Management Plan (AMP)

Project Activity:

- Production of an access management plan providing operational-level direction for the recreational use of on- and off-highway vehicles in the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills sub-region.

Participants:

- The plan will be developed collectively in a workshop setting involving interested and affected parties. Government agencies, public interest groups, industry and local authorities will be involved.
- Plan development will be co-ordinated by the Alberta Forest Service (AFS).
- There will be a general public review of the access management plan before any recommendations are acted upon.

Activities Undertaken 1987-1989:

- The AMP has not been initiated pending completion of the pilot AMP being undertaken in the Castle River sub-region.

Anticipated Activities 1989-1990:

- Initiation of the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills AMP will depend on:

  (1) successful conclusion of the Castle River AMP exercise.
  (2) other priorities.
  (3) available resources.

- Current priorities suggest the Ghost River sub-region as the most likely candidate for the next AMP project. If this remains the case then the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills AMP will likely be initiated in 1991-1992, as available resources allow for undertaking only one AMP project at a time.

3.0 ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES

3.1 Mount Livingstone Natural Area

Project/Activity:	- Designation to recognize the ecological values of the area. Development of an operational management plan.
Participants:	- AFS (lead), Public Lands Division (Lands), Fish and Wildlife Division (F&W) and Recreation & Parks (R&P). Public involvement component.
Activities Undertaken 1987-1989:	- The Mount Livingstone Natural Area was established by Order-in Council 731-87, on November 12, 1987. - A volunteer steward for the Natural Area (Rita Talaber) was selected in July 1988.
Anticipated Activities 1989-1990:	- Establishment of a planning team and initiation of the management plan. - Development and completion of draft plan (to public review stage).

3.2 Upper Bob Creek Ecological Reserve

Project/Activity:	- Designation to recognize the ecological values of the area. Development of an operational management plan.
Participants:	- AFS (lead), R&P (co-ordinator), F&W. Public involvement component.
Activities Undertaken 1987-1989:	- The Upper Bob Creek Ecological Reserve was established by Order-in-Council 142-89 on February 16, 1989. - Establishment of a planning team and initiation of the management plan.
Anticipated Activities 1989-1990:	- Terms of reference for the management plan are to be written by AFS and submitted to the Ecological Reserves Co-ordinating Committee for approval.

3.3 Beehive Natural Area

Project/Activity:	- Designation to recognize the ecological values of the area. Development of an operational management plan.
Participants:	- AFS (lead), Regional Co-ordination Services (RCS), F&W, Cowley Forest Products Ltd., Alberta

Wilderness Association (AWA). Public involvement component.

Activities Undertaken 1987-1989:

- The Beehive Natural Area was established by Order-in-Council 210-87 on April 3, 1987.
- Joint volunteer stewards (AWA and Cowley Forest Products Ltd.) were identified in October 1987.
- A planning team was formed and the management planning exercise initiated in April 1988.
- Team membership comprises the AFS, F&W, RCS and both volunteer stewards. The team is chaired by RCS while the AFS is providing co-ordination and writing services.
- Eight team meetings were held during the reporting period and a draft management plan was produced.

Anticipated Activities 1989-1990:

- Public review of the draft plan (round-table meeting with affected parties plus an information exchange session for the general public).
- Team revisions to the draft plan as appropriate.
- Review and approval of management plan by government agencies and site stewards.
- Initiate plan implementation.

4.0 FISHERIES

4.1 Stream and Lake Inventories

Project/Activity: - Inventory of fish populations in streams and lakes.

Participants: - F&W lead.

Activities Undertaken 1987-1989:
- Population estimates were made in the autumn of 1988 on Dutch Creek for sport fishery management purposes. Population estimates for cutthroat trout were calculated to be 320 fish per kilometre, which was up from the 1987 estimate of 266 fish per kilometre. Two of the cutthroat trout (3%) were legal-sized fish.
- Adult rainbow trout were observed in the outlet of Window Mountain Lake in June and excavation of redds in July uncovered a number of live and dead eggs. Spawning is occurring but hatching success appears to be poor.

Anticipated Activities 1989-1990:
- Repeat population estimates of fish in sample section of Dutch Creek.
- Conduct fish population estimates on Dutch and Racehorse creeks to determine success of habitat improvement work carried out in 1988 and 1987, respectively.

4.2 Fisheries Surveys

Project/Activity: - To provide direction for future species management, and habitat protection and development strategies.

Participants: - F&W lead.

Activities Undertaken
1987-1989:

1. Lakes

Creel data were collected by F&W and R&P staff whenever the opportunity arose. The following table summarizes the data collected in lakes in 1988.

Table 1. Angler catch/use data in lakes in the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills IRP, 1988

Lake	No. of Census Days	No. of Anglers Present	No. of Anglers Interviewed	Total Hours Fished	Total Trout Caught	CUE (fish/hr.)	Total Suckers Caught	CUE
Chain	14	780	603	1572	724 RB	0.47	436	0.29
Crowsnest	20	71	57	92.2	7 LT	0.08	1	-
Island	20	59	55	111.25	2 EBT	0.02	23	0.21
					5 RB	0.04		
					5 CT	0.04		
					35 MWF	0.31		

An additional 32 anglers were interviewed at Emerald, Lee and Allison lakes and Gap Pond.

2. Streams

a) STEP Survey

A roving creel survey was carried out in the Livingstone River drainage using two Student Temporary Employment Personnel (STEP) personnel. The survey concentrated on the northwest branch of the Oldman River, the Livingstone River and Dutch Creek. The purpose of the study was to gather data to document the effects of the new angling regulations instituted on East Slope streams in 1987.

Although a report on the survey has not been written yet, the following table summarizes some of the preliminary data collected from June to August 1988.

Table 2. A summary of the June, July and August (STEP) 1988 Creel Survey in the Livingstone drainage, (preliminary data).

Location	Estimated # Anglers	Estimated Angler Hours	Estimated # Cutthroat Caught	(CUE)	Estimated # Bull Trout Caught	(CUE)
Dutch Creek	1532	3701	5146	(1.39)	161	(0.04)
Oldman River (NW Br)	2470	6010	5998	(0.99)	133	(0.02)
Livingstone River	1819	3840	2733	(0.71)	63	(0.01)

Approximately 21% of the cutthroat trout were large enough to be kept (i.e., over the minimum size limit of 25 cm).

b) Regional Creel Survey

Creel data were also collected by Fish and Wildlife staff on a number of streams in the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills IRP area, whenever the opportunity arose. Table 3 summarizes the results of this survey.

Table 3. Angler catch/use data in streams in the Livingstone-Porcupine IRP-1988.

Creek	No. of Census Days	No. of Anglers Interviewed	Total Hours Fished	Cutthroat Trout Caught	(CUE)
Allison Creek	2	2	1	3	3.0
Beaver Creek	2	3	1.5	1	0.67
Daisy Creek	1	1	0.5	0	-
Dutch Creek	7	21	25.5	16	0.63
Livingstone River	13	38	106	26	0.25
Oldman River (NW Branch)	7	37	54.5	26	0.48
Racehorse Creek	4	7	5	0	-
Vicary Creek	7	17	40	22	0.55

61% of the cutthroat trout were returned because they were below the minimum size limit of 25 cm.

3. High Mountain Lakes

A new volunteer creel data box was erected at Window Mountain Lake. Results have yet to be analyzed.

Anticipated Activities 1989-1990: - Collect creel data, whenever possible from lakes and streams within Livingstone-Porcupine IRP boundaries.

5.0 RANGE AND AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

5.1 Range Management, Resource Management Areas (RMAs), A, B, C, E, F

Project/Activity:	- Manage domestic livestock to achieve uniform forage use. - Maintain healthy range condition, intensify range management practices. - Identify areas suitable for forage production on a sustained yield basis. - Note areas critical for the maintenance of wildlife in the area.
Participants:	- AFS lead. Consultation with F&W and Lands.
Activities Undertaken 1987-1989:	- Initiated development of range management plans for Beaver Creek, Bob Creek, Burke Creek, Chaffen Creek, East Trout, Waldron and West Trout allotments. - Range inventory of cutblocks in Gap allotment. - Weed control throughout planning area. - Brush control on 139 ha in the Todd Creek, Burke Creek and Beaver Creek allotments.
Anticipated Activities 1989-1990):	- Completion of range management plans for Beaver Creek, Bob Creek, Burke Creek, Chaffen Creek, East Trout, Waldron and West Trout allotments. - Assessment of forage production on cutblocks in Gap allotment. - Continue weed control throughout planning area. - Assessment of brush control projects completed in the Todd Creek, Burke Creek and Beaver Creek allotments. - Initiate range inventory and management plan development for the Olin Creek, Meade Creek, Owl Creek, Hunter Creek, and Savanna Creek allotments.

5.2 Stocking Levels, RMAs A, B, C, E, F

Project/Activity:	- Maintain 1977 stocking levels.
Participants:	- AFS lead.
Activities Undertaken 1987-1989:	- Inspection and monitoring of conditions on grazing allotments conducted by district. - 129 grazing permits issued (30075 animal unit months).
Anticipated Activities 1989-1990:	- Inspection and monitoring of range condition and stocking rates. - Issuance of grazing permits.

- Identification of suitable sites for range improvement.

5.3 Range Management, RMA D

Project/Activity:
- Grazing lease renewals and periodic inspections as required. Range survey on grazing leases where identified by staff.

Participants:
- Lands lead. Consultation with F&W and AFS as required.

Activities Undertaken 1987-1989:
- Nine grazing lease renewals were undertaken by Lands. Staff evaluated past lease management practices and where necessary, requested changes to ensure proper management of the range resource.
- One inspection of a grazing lease was undertaken. Staff evaluated range condition and discussed the present management practices with the lessee.
- Seventeen grazing leases were surveyed to assess range conditions and where necessary, provide the Public Lands Division with recommendations for resource management.

Anticipated Activities 1989-1990:
- Four grazing lease renewal applications and 19 periodic inspections are projected.
- Implementing the recommendations from 17 range surveys.
- Inventory approximately three 300 quarter sections for inclusion in resource management plans.

5.4 Range Improvement, RMA D

Project/Activity:
- Undertake a wide variety of range improvement projects such as brushing, controlling regrowth, pasture seeding, water development and cross-fencing.

Participants:
- Lands lead. Consultation with F&W and AFS as required.

Activities Undertaken 1987-1989:
- Twenty range improvement projects were undertaken. The projects are at various stages of completion.

Anticipated Activities 1989 - 1990:
- Twenty range improvement activities are ongoing. Additional applications are anticipated during the year based upon initiation by the lessee.

5.5 Agricultural Sale

- The provincial Grazing Lease Conversion Policy has been rescinded on Agriculture Zone 6 lands.

6.0 RECREATION

6.1 Facilities and Opportunities

Project/Activity:	- Provision and maintenance of a wide range of high quality, accessible and affordable public facilities.
Participants:	- AFS lead.
Activities Undertaken 1987-1989:	- Initiated upgrading at the Livingstone Falls Forest Recreation Area. - Initiated upgrading at the Chinook Forest Recreation Area. - Monitored random camping at sites in the Northwest Branch Road, Atlas Road and Beaver Creek areas. - Initiated an inventory and report regarding backcountry staging and trails in the north Porcupine Hills (RMA E).
Anticipated Activities 1989 - 1990:	- Continued maintenance of existing facilities to provincial standards. - Upgrade Racehorse and Dutch Creek forest recreation areas and possible staging area/group camp/day-use site in the Northwest Branch Road area (dependent upon budget availability; allocation may be deferred to 1990-1991). - Continue monitoring of random camping sites in the planning area as opportunities permit. - Continue preparation of a report regarding backcountry staging and trails in the North Porcupine Hills (RMA E). - Completion and initiation of forest recreation area upgrading projects will be undertaken as available resources permit.

6.2 Commercial Operations

Project/Activity:	- Reviewing applications and monitoring commercial developments, operations and services consistent with the recreational intent of the area.
Participants:	- AFS lead.
Activities Undertaken 1987-1989:	- Monitored existing commercial operations and conducted inspections as required. - A single commercial trail riding permit was issued in 1988.
Anticipated Activities 1989-1990:	- Issuing permits, monitoring existing commercial operations and conducting inspections as required.

7.0 TIMBER

7.1 Forest Protection

Project/Activity:
- Protecting the forest from fire, insects and disease.

Participants:
- AFS lead.

Activities Undertaken 1987-1989:
- The following fire suppression took place:

DB6-01-88 - 0.1 ha
DB6-02-88 - 0.4 ha
DB6-03-88 - 0.3 ha
DB6-05-88 - 0.1 ha
DB6-06-88 - spot (less than 0.1 ha)
DB6-07-88 - spot (less than 0.1 ha)
DB6-08-88 - spot (less than 0.1 ha)
DB6-12-88 - spot (less than 0.1 ha)
DB6-13-88 - 0.2 ha
DB6-14-88 - 0.2 ha
DB6-15-88 - 5.5 ha
DB6-16 88 - 0.2 ha
DB6-17-88 - spot (less than 0.1 ha)
DB6-18-88 - 17.0 ha
DB6-19-88 - 0.1 ha
DB6-20-88 - spot (less than 0.1 ha)
DB6-22-88 - 0.7 ha
SUMMARY: Total Fires: 17 (24.8 ha)
Man-caused: 12 (24.6 ha)
Lightning: 5 (approx. 0.2 ha)

- Prescribed fires: Nil (none undertaken as no requests received).
- Insects and disease: mountain pine beetle subject to ongoing surveillance; population endemic/no treatment required.

Anticipated Activities 1989-1990:
- Protect forest from fire, insects and disease (ongoing).
- Adherence to comprehensive fire management plan.

7.2 Reforestation

Project/Activity:
- Reforestation of lands in the sustained-yield timber base.

Participant:
- AFS lead.

Activities Undertaken 1987-1990:
- Planting: 203.1 ha.
- Regeneration surveys: 381.0 ha.
- Scarification: 507.3 ha.
- Aerial seeding: 917.9 ha.

- Free-to-grow surveys: surveys were undertaken on 160.4 ha to determine if reforested species have outcompeted surrounding vegetation. This enables an assessment to be made of the long-term success of reforestation efforts.

Anticipated Activities 1989-1990:
- Regeneration surveys: 133.7 ha.
- Scarification: 515.2 ha.
- Free-to-grow surveys: 739.9 ha.

7.3 Timber Harvesting

Project/Activity:
- Maintain the annual allowable cut.
- Integrate logging with other land use activities through forest management plans.
- Use landscape logging and other aesthetic harvesting practices as appropriate.

Participant:
- AFS lead.

Activities Undertaken 1987-1989:
- Work was undertaken on various timber harvesting licences issued under timber quota allocation as follows:

  (1) harvesting of 66000 m^3 on a timber licence in the Hidden Creek area;
  (2) harvesting of 65000 m^3 on a timber licence in the Oyster, Straight and Pasque creeks area. The harvest will continue until the licence is completed;
  (3) two licenses were cancelled and one issued in the Racehorse area. Harvesting will commence in 1989; and
  (4) operations continued on two timber licenses in the North Porcupine Hills (1725 m^3 and 28477 m^3 respectively, were harvested).

- Three local timber permits (LTP) were issued in the Allison Creek miscellaneous timber use (MTU) area, 700 m^3 were harvested.
- A total of 292 Forest Products Permits were issued (e.g., Christmas trees, transplants, posts, poles and firewood).

Anticipated Activities 1988-1990:
- Complete forest inventory for CO2 forest management unit.
- Work is anticipated on various timber licences as follows:

  (1) ongoing operations on two timber licenses in the North Porcupine Hills (harvesting of 10979 m^3 and 26571 m^3, respectively);

(2) ongoing operations on the Oyster/Straight/Pasque creeks timber licence (harvesting of 30613 m^3);
(3) completion of operations on two timber licenses in the Racehorse area (harvesting of 3300 m^3 and 2400 m^3, respectively);
(4) ongoing operations on one timber licence in the Racehorse area (harvesting of 14000 m^3);
(5) completion of operations on the Hidden Creek timber licence. (harvesting of 1000 m^3);
(6) ongoing operations on one timber licence in the Livingstone area (harvesting of 24000 m^3); and
(7) commencement of operations on one timber licence in the Racehorse area (harvesting of 69000 m^3).

- Issuance of LTPs and forest products permits.

8.0 WATER AND WATERSHED

8.1 Watershed Management

Project/Activity: - To develop a watershed management plan to assist in meeting the IRP's broad objectives.

Participant: - AFS (lead), F&W, Alberta Environment (AE).

Activities Undertaken 1987-1989: - Watershed management plan background information assembled.

Anticipated Activities 1989-1990: - Completion of a five-year operational watershed management plan.

8.2 Reclamation

Project/Activity: - To complete proposed reclamation projects, notably:

(1) seismic lines in the Ridge, Beaver and Deep Creeks areas (RMA-A);
(2) access roads in Hidden Creek to be reclaimed immediately following logging (RMA-A);
(3) reclamation of a trail and mine exploration site in the Ernst-Todd Creek area (RMA-C); and
(4) reclamation of sites in the Ptolemy, Allison and Byron creeks areas (RMA-G).

Participants: - AFS lead.

Activities Undertaken 1987-1989:

- Ridge and Beaver creeks seismic line: reclamation proposal submitted.
- Deep Creek seismic line: open house meeting held in June 1988 and ministerial approval obtained to proceed with project in September 1988. Budget approval pending.
- Hidden Creek access roads: some roads have been reclaimed as timber harvesting operations are being completed. Operations and project delayed as the result of heavy snowfalls.
- Ernst/Todd Creek trail: this project was cancelled because only a short segment of the trail is located in the Green Area and there were competing priorities for reclamation elsewhere.

- Ptolemy Creek: proposal now on hold pending a decision on where the trail's terminal point will be located and whether the creek fords are to be hardened off.
- Allison Creek/Deadman's Pass: proposal on hold pending access management plan initiation.
- Byron Creek mine site: project on hold until responsibility for reclamation (government or corporate) is determined.

Anticipated Activities 1989-1990:

- Ridge and Beaver seismic line: reclamation involves trail closure - ministerial approval is being sought. An open house meeting is scheduled for June 1989. If the project is approved soon after, reclamation work could be completed in the summer of 1989.
- Deep Creek seismic line: project completion expected in summer of 1989 pending budget approval by AE.
- Hidden Creek access roads: reclamation project completion expected by summer of 1990.
- Ptolemy Creek: determination of terminal point, creek ford hardening and bridge replacement on Crowsnest Creek.
- Allison Creek/Deadman's Pass: proposal on hold pending access management plan initiation.
- Byron Creek mine site: resolution of reclamation responsibility.

8.3 Water Impoundments

Project/Activity:

- To assess the feasibility of constructing small water impoundments in the Porcupine Hills to sustain a recreational fishery, provide water for forest protection and range management purposes, and augment downstream water use.

Participants:

- F&W (lead), AFS, AE, R&P.

Activities Undertaken 1987-1989:

- Planning not initiated since project is currently low priority.

Anticipated Activities 1989-1990:

- Project/planning initiation not anticipated for 1989-1990 because of higher priorities for other projects. Re-evaluate project initiation for 1990-1991.

8.4 Stream Crossing Assessment

Project/Activity:	- To assess water quality problems caused by improper stream crossings and to take appropriate measure to eliminate these problems.
Participants:	- AFS lead. Consultation with F&W, Lands and Alberta Transportation and Utilities.
Activities Undertaken 1987-1989:	- Assessment procedures completed.
Anticipated Activities 1989-1990:	- A watershed management crew will commence inventory work during the summer of 1989 in conjunction with F&W. Reclamation planning will be undertaken as required.

9.0 WILDLIFE

9.1 Elk Population Monitoring

Project/Activity:	- Determination of the status of the Porcupine Hills and Oldman-Livingstone elk populations.
Participants:	- F&W lead.
Activities Undertaken 1987-1990:	- An aerial census of the Porcupine Hills and Livingstone-Oldman elk herds was conducted to obtain current status information with respect to management objectives. - During mid-February 1989, a survey of the Porcupine Hills and Livingstone-Oldman elk populations was completed. The census revealed that management actions should be directed towards gradually increasing the Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 308/402 wintering elk population to approximately 1300 animals from the current estimated level of 1050. Numbers of elk in both WMU 304 and WMU 305 should be increased by approximately 75 animals to achieve stated management objectives for the Porcupine Hills area. However, in light of past depredation concerns, the interim goal is to maintain current population levels until such time that depredation and range concerns can be evaluated further.
Anticipated Activities 1989-1990:	- The annual census will again be scheduled for 1989-1990.

9.2 Moose Population Monitoring

Project/Activity:	- Determination of the status of the Porcupine Hills, Oldman-Livingstone and Willow Creek moose populations.
Participants:	- F&W lead.
Activities Undertaken 1987-1989:	- An aerial census of the Porcupine Hills, Oldman-Livingstone and Willow Creek moose populations was conducted to obtain current status information with respect to management objectives. - During early February 1989, a survey of the Porcupine Hills, Oldman-Livingstone and Willow Creek moose populations was completed. Results of the census revealed that moose numbers in the Porcupine Hills area are below stated management

goals, so management actions should be directed towards providing for population recovery. The moose population in WMUs 306 and 308 has increased from the 1985-1986 level, but further population growth is required to meet stated objectives.

Anticipated Activities 1990-1991: - The biannual population monitoring program will again be scheduled for 1990-1991.

9.3 Mountain Goats

Project/Activity: - Evaluation of a goat population transplant that took place in the Livingstone Range in 1987.

Participant: - F&W lead.

Anticipated Activities 1988-1989: - Relocation of marked goats, including assessment of survival and production.

Results Achieved: - Only one of the two marked goats was relocated. During mid-June 1988, a group of eight goats (five adult goats, including a telemetry-marked nanny) were located north of the transplant release site. Four of the five adult goats were marked and confirmed to be animals transplanted to the area during the summer of 1987. The production of three kids immediately following the transplant improves the chances of the transplant being successful.

Anticipated Activities 1989-1990: - Additional effort will be directed towards monitoring the transplanted goat population as well as obtaining survival and production information during the spring and early summer of 1989.

9.4 Elk and Bighorn Sheep Winter Range Assessment

Project/Activity: - Investigate factors influencing productivity of elk and sheep winter ranges in the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills planning area.

Participants: - F&W lead, Land Information Services Division (LISD).

Activities Undertaken 1987-1989: - A comprehensive study was initiated to assess numerous environmental factors influencing range productivity with respect to habitat for elk wintering in the Bob Creek area.
- As an initial component of this initiative, the Bob Creek elk winter range study was completed

by LISD during 1988-1989. The following was provided to satisfy major study objectives:

(1) Development of an ecological map at 1:20000 depicting landform, soils, topography, slope drainage, aspect and vegetation encroachment;
(2) Measurement of vegetation encroachment; and
(3) Identification of potential areas for winter range enhancement.

Anticipated Activities 1989-1990: - Results of the Bob Creek Winter Range Habitat Study will be reviewed critically and a plan of action will be devised to address range management needs.

10.0 ONGOING ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

10.1 Introduction

Day-to-day administrative and management activities often take place that are not specifically related to the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills IRP. The IRP, nevertheless, constitutes the framework within which this activity takes place. In some cases, such as with the review of disposition applications and other referrals, the link with the IRP may be quite explicit. Accordingly, a summary of ongoing divisional operation activities is included below.

10.2 Alberta Energy

Mineral Resource Activities:

- The announcement of gold values in some volcanic outcrops of the Crowsnest Formation in the area has taken precedence over regular, ongoing minerals activities. Many applications for Metallic Minerals Exploration Permits have been made and a number of applications for field exploration for gold can be anticipated in the next year. Any exploration work will be conducted in accordance with the IRP.

10.3 Alberta Forest Service

Activity:

- Ensuring that land use activities are integrated and conform with the management intent for the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills area.

Activities Undertaken 1987-1989:

Number and Type of Forest Land Use Referrals

0	Mineral Surface Lease
4	Licenses of Occupation
2	Pipeline Agreements
1	Geophysical
0	Miscellaneous Permit
2	Easements
3	Surface Material Licenses/Leases
26	Mineral Applications
38	TOTAL REFERRALS

Anticipated Activities 1989-1990:

- Approval, approval with conditions, or rejection of land use disposition applications.

10.4 Alberta Fish and Wildlife

10.4.1 Referrals

Number and Type of Land Use Referrals

2	Pipeline Agreements
1	Geophysical
3	Timber
1	Easement
1	Disposition Reservation
1	Surface Materials
3	Water Resources
1	AGT
2	Range Improvement
14	Metallic Mineral Exploration Permits
29	TOTAL REFERRALS

10.4.2 Wildlife Occurrences

Fish and Wildlife responded to a number of wildlife support occurrences* during the reporting period as follows:

Number and Type of Wildlife Support Occurrences

2	Wolf Kills
1	Elk Depredation
1	Wolf Mauling
1	Deer in haystack
5	Elk in haystacks
1	Black Bear domestic livestock kill
11	TOTAL OCCURRENCES

10.5 Alberta Public Lands

The following administrative duties were carried out in RMA-D:

9	Grazing Lease renewal applications
1	Grazing lease/permit periodic inspections
20	Range improvement projects
6	Pipeline agreements/inspections
2	Miscellaneous lease renewal inspections
1	Recreational lease inspection
39	TOTAL REFERRALS

* Any wildlife situation requiring action by a Fish and Wildlife officer.

11.0 HOUSEKEEPING CHANGES/AMENDMENTS

11.1 Changing IRPs

It is obvious that if plans are considered to be mandatory, they will be superceded by events and their value compromised. It is equally obvious that plan content will be compromised if changed arbitrarily. Accordingly, it is necessary to define just how firm and flexible plans will be.

This subject is addressed in a document dealing with the implementation stage of the planning process.* The document recognizes the following: while plans are in effect, they must be adhered to; changes can range from very minor to very substantial; and all changes must be addressed reasonably, equitably and with appropriate accountability. The following basic kinds of changes are recognized.

Housekeeping Revisions: non-contentious corrections or updates requiring neither public discussion nor senior management approval. Typical situations include: corrections or editorial clarifications; guideline modifications where a plan objective can be met more effectively in a way other than the one prescribed; and adjustments necessary to ensure plan compliance with new policies, regulations or acts. The Regional Resource Management Committee (RRMC) is responsible for housekeeping revisions and these must be reported publicly in annual report documents on the IRP.

Amendments: all changes not considered to be housekeeping revisions. Amendments include any modification resulting in a significant change to permitted resource uses or to the priority given to resource uses in all or part of the planning area. Amendments will usually be addressed by interdepartmental referral and public review, and require ministerial or cabinet committee approval.

The following section describes how recent requests for changes to the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills IRP were addressed by the Southern RRMC.

11.2 Requests for Changes

Three requests for changes to the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills IRP were dealt with by the RRMC. The changes are summarized below. Page references refer to the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Sub-Regional IRP (Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife 1987, Edmonton).

---

* Integrated Resource Plans: Implementation, Amendment and Review, July 1987, Resource Planning Branch.

ITEM 1: Table of Compatible Activities (Table 2, p 29)

Request:	-	Revise the table to clarify "serviced camping". The Eastern Slopes Policy allows serviced camping in Zone 2, but not "intensive recreation". Most definitions of "serviced camping" would imply "intensive recreation".
Change Requested By:	-	Alberta Recreation & Parks.
Response:	-	Term "auto access camping" substituted for "serviced camping" (see revised table overleaf).
Kind of Change:	-	Housekeeping change to facilitate plan interpretation. The intent of the plan is clarified, but not changed.
Rationale:	-	Auto access camping more clearly and accurately states the intent for the area.

ITEM 2: Zoning Change, Critical Wildlife to Multiple Use.

Request:	-	Change zoning on E 1/2 28-9-2 W5M from Zone 2 (Critical Wildlife) to Zone 5 (Multiple Use).
	-	Change zoning on E 1/2 21-9-2 W5M from Zone 2 to Zone 6 (Agriculture).
Change Requested By:	-	Lessee, Mr. Hugh Lynch-Staunton.
Response:	-	Zoning changed from Zone 2 to Zone 5 on SE 21-9-2 W5M and Ptn SW 21-9-2 W5M.
Kind of Change:	-	Housekeeping. Change affects only a small area and recognizes existing uses and potentials of the land base while having no significant negative affect on wildlife habitat. A local fish and game club was contacted before the change was made.
Rationale:	-	See Appendix 2 pp 32-34 for details of this change.

ITEM 3: Zoning Change, Prime Protection to Multiple Use.

Request:	-	Change prime protection zoning to multiple use to allow for intensive mineral exploration and potential development of a mine site.
Change Requested By:	-	Private Sector.

COMPATIBLE ACTIVITIES BY LAND USE ZONE

ACTIVITY	ZONE							
	1 PRIME PROTECTION	2 CRITICAL WILDLIFE	3 SPECIAL USE	4 GENERAL RECREATION	5 MULTIPLE USE	6 AGRICULTURE	7 INDUSTRIAL	8 FACILITY
Non-motorized recreation	■	■	□	■	■	■	□	■
Fishing	■	■	□	■	■	■	□	■
Hunting	■	■	□	□	■	■	□	×
Scientific study	■	□	□	□	■	■	■	■
Trapping	■	□	□	□	■	■	×	×
Trails; non-motorized	□	□	□	■	■	■	□	■
Transportation and utility corridors	□	□	□	□	■	■	■	■
Primitive camping	□	□	□	■	■	■	×	×
Intensive recreation	□	×	□	■	■	□	□	■
Off-highway vehicle activity	×	□	□	□	■	■	■	■
Logging	×	□	□	□	■	■	■	□
Domestic grazing	×	□	□	□	■	■	×	□
Petroleum and natural gas exploration and development	×	□	□	□	■	■	■	□
Coal exploration	×	□	□	□	■	■	■	×
Coal development	×	□	□	□	■	■	■	×
Mineral exploration and development	×	□	□	□	■	■	■	×
Auto-access camping *	×	□	□	■	■	□	□	■
Commercial development	×	×	□	□	□	□	□	■
Industrial development	×	×	□	×	■	□	■	□
Residential subdivisions	×	×	□	□	□	■	□	■
Cultivation	×	×	□	×	□	■	□	□

■ Compatible Use -Uses that are considered to be compatible with the intent of a land use zone under normal guidelines and land use regulations.

□ Permitted Use -Uses that may be compatible with the intent of a land use zone under certain circumstances and under special conditions and controls where necessary.

× Not-Permitted Use -Uses that are not considered to be compatible with the intent or capabilities of a land use zone.

These activities are only representative of the range of activities that occur in the Eastern Slopes. For these and any other activities, the possibility of whether they should or should not take place in a particular area must always be measured against the fundamental management intentions for that zone. Since economic opportunities are not all known in advance, site-specific developments may be considered in any zone.

* Adjusted from "A Policy for Resource Management for the Eastern Slopes-Revised 1984"

Response: - Request rejected.

Kind of Change: - Plan amendment.

Rationale: - When a proponent requests an activity disallowed by an approved IRP, the request is dealt with by means of a plan amendment, rather than a preliminary disclosure. The Government of Alberta is under no obligation to entertain any given request to undertake a plan amendment (a major process commonly involving interdepartmental referrals, public review and ministerial or cabinet approval of any change). When the government refuses to entertain a plan amendment, all details of the request remain confidential.

12.0 ACRONYMS/INITIALISMS

The following abbreviations are used in this report:

AE	Alberta Environment
AFS	Alberta Forest Service (a division of Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife)
AMP	Access Management Plan
AWA	Alberta Wilderness Association
CT	Cutthroat Trout
CUE	Catch per unit effort (numbers of fish caught per hour)
EBT	Eastern Brook Trout
F&W	Alberta Fish and Wildlife (a division of Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife)
IRP	Integrated Resource Plan
Lands	Alberta Public Lands (a division of Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife)
LISD	Land Information Services Division (a branch of Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife)
LT	Lake Trout
LTP	Local Timber Permit
MTU	Miscellaneous Timber Use
MWF	Mountain Whitefish
R&P	Alberta Recreation and Parks
RB	Rainbow Trout
RCS	Regional Co-ordination Services (a branch of Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife)
RMA	Resource Management Area
RRMC	Southern Region Regional Resource Management Committee
STEP	Summer Temporary Employment Program
WMU	Wildlife Management Unit

Alberta
FORESTRY, LANDS AND WILDLIFE
Regional Coordination Services
South /Central Region

2nd Floor, Sun Center Building, 530 - 8 Street South, Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 2J8

Mr. Jack Reedman
President
Willow Valley Trophy Club
Box 99
Lundbreck, Alberta
TOK 1HO

July 27, 1988

Dear Mr. Reedman,

The Southern Regional Resource Management Committee (see attached Terms of Reference) is primarily responsible for overseeing the implementation of approved integrated resource plans (IRPs). One of our functions involves addressing requests for changes to such plans.

We've recently dealt with a request from Mr. Hugh Lynch-Staunton for a minor change to zoning designations in the recently-approved Livingstone-Porcupine Hills IRP. Before finalizing any change we'd like your club to be aware of the details and to have an opportunity to comment.

Mr. Lynch-Staunton sought a zoning change from Zone 2 (Critical Wildlife) to Zone 5 (Multiple Use) on the E 1/2 28-9-2 W5M and a change from Zone 2 to Zone 6 (Agriculture) on the E 1/2 21-9-2 W5M*. In response to this request the local Fish & Wildlife habitat biologist, Daryl Wig, met with Mr. Lynch-Staunton and conducted a field assessment on the lands in question. The biologist recommended retaining the critical wildlife zone on NE 21 and E 1/2 28 for the following reasons:

1. Critical mule deer range at all times of the year, although snowpack may prohibit use on most of the area during winter.

2. Use of area by blue grouse.

3. Golden eagle nesting location.

In the case of SE 21, however, most of the quarter is relatively flat rangeland although there is a corridor of riparian habitat along Todd Creek that

---

* The intent of these zoning designations are described on pages 10-12 of the attached document, " A Policy for Resource Management of the Eastern Slopes, Revised 1984".

is used by both mule and white-tailed deer. An essentially identical situation exists on the adjacent quarter (SW 21 - north of the road). In the opinion of the habitat biologist the existence of some of some riparian habitat is not sufficient reason to zone all of both quarters critical wildlife.

In light of the above, the RRMC is inclined to accept Mr. Wig's recommendation that the zoning on SE 21 and SW 21 (north of the road)-9-2 W5M be changed from Critical Wildlife (Zone 2) to Multiple Use (Zone 5). The attached sketch depicts the existing and proposed zoning. The effect of the change will be to provide a clear recognition of the multiple uses that this land base currently supports. In practical terms, it will make it easier for the lessee to conduct range improvements on the rangeland portion of his lease. The existing riparian habitat will be maintained and will not be affected by this change.

Please review this matter with your club and get back to me with any comments that you might have by Friday 26 August 1988. If you would like more details, please call Daryl Wig at 562-7331.

Thanks for your interest and co-operation.

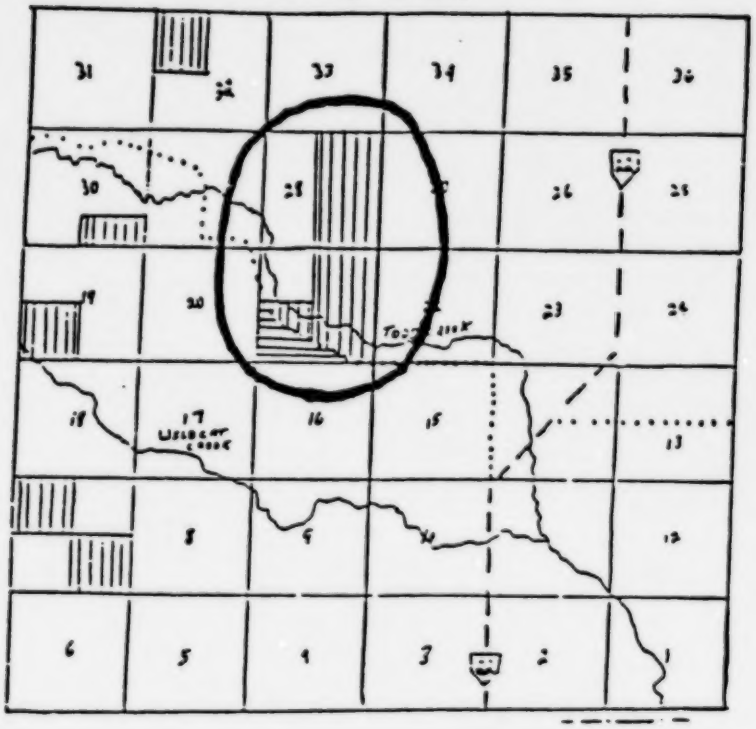
Yours truly

Ian W. Dyson

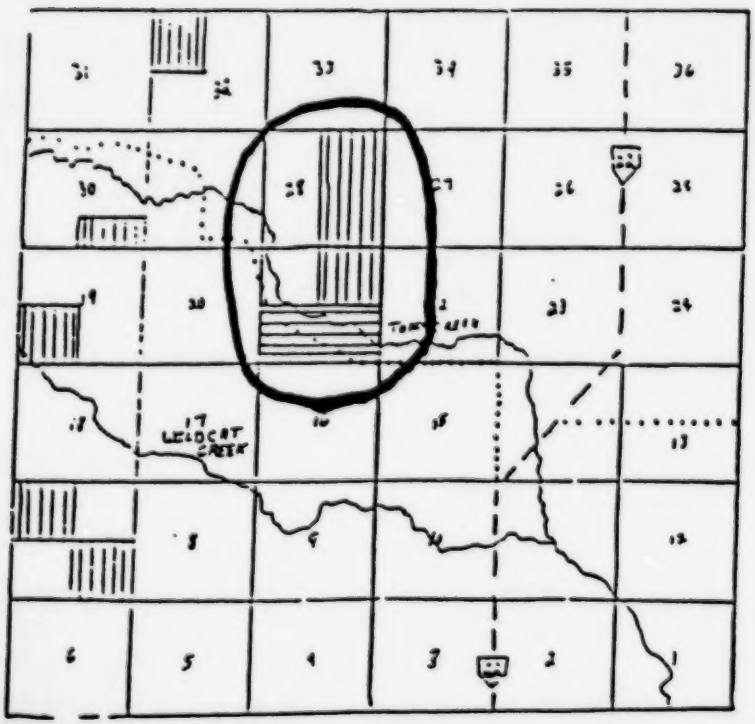
cc: Daryl Wig
Hugh Lynch-Staunton
S. RRMC

PROPOSED ZONING CHANGES Twp 29, Rg 2, WSM

Existing Zoning



Proposed Zoning



Patent Land

Zone 2 Critical Wildlife

Zone 5 Multiple Use